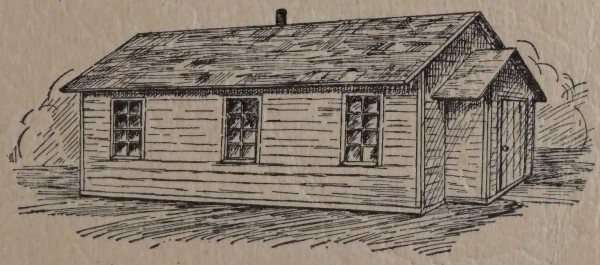
60th Anniversary

of

St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Congregation

1875
1935



First Church

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36-

A SHORT HISTORY

... Of The ...

Ev. Lutheran St. Luke's Church

Unaltered Augsburg Confession

OF POSEN TOWNSHIP

Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota

Prepared by

Pastor W. A. Poehler
Max Timm, Sr.
Albert Bruss, Sr.
Teacher E. E. Pagels
Herman Bahn, Sr.
Herman Frank

History Committee

The Present Church

FOREWORD

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1Cor.15,58.

By God's grace St. Luke's Congregation is permitted to celebrate its 60th Anniversary this year. Looking back upon the past they can say with David, "Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."Ps.40,5.

It is appropriate, therefore, that those of the members who have lived to observe this day, do so by uniting in a public service of thanks giving. It is also appropriate that they preserve for their children and children's children the remembrance of the manifold blessings which the Lord has showered upon them in the past, by publishing a short history of the congregation. They do this not for self-glorification. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake,"Ps.115,1. They do it in order that many who read this booklet may become and remain, "stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord," knowing that their "labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1Cor.15,58.

Early Settlers In Posen.

Two factors combined to open up this community for white settlers immediately after the Civil War. One was the peace treaty made with the Sioux Indians in 1862 which called for the evacuation of Western Minnesota by the Indians. The other factor, which caused a great influx of settlers to this community was, that the Government offered homesteads and cheap land to the immigrants in this neighborhood.

The first Lutherans to arrive in this vicinity were David Frank jr, who arrived in 1869, Julius and Reinhold Frank and their father, David Frank sr, who arrived in 1870, August Milbradt, Fred Stroschein, and Michael Stroschein, who arrived in 1871, August Stroschein, who arrived in 1872, and Herman Mielke, who also arrived at about this time. Most of these came from the Province of Posen, Germany by the way of Wisconsin. This fact led to the choice of Posen as the name for the township in which they settled and where St. Luke's Church was later located.

"The residents of township 113, range 39, petitioned for organization April 16, 1879. They were divided in their preference for a name. Some desired it named Alderson. . . . .; others Posen, after the province of Posen, formerly a part of Poland, but later of Germany, from which came many of the township's early settlers. When the petition for organization was circulated the preference of each citizen was learned, and "Posen" was the name selected."
(History of Yellow Medicine County, A. P. Rose)

Events Leading Up To The Organization Of The Congregation

In the summer of 1874, July 10, David Frank sr died.

This caused the Lutherans to make inquiry for a Lutheran Pastor. Information was obtained that a Lutheran Pastor, the Rev. J. J. Hunziker was residing at Sheridan Township, near Redwood Falls. Word was sent to him, requesting him to conduct the funeral services. This he did. This service was held at the David Frank home 4 miles west and 1-2 mile north of the present church. There was no cemetery plot at this time. David Frank was buried on his own homestead, the present David Bahn farm, 5 miles northwest of here. This place was also chosen for the last resting place of four other Lutherans. They are Adolf Julius Stroschein; Albert Ernst Kartowietz, Anna Emilie Frank, and John Herman Basler. All of these have been removed to the present cemetery plot with the exception of Albert Ernst Kartowietz. July 13, of the same summer the first confirmation service was held in this community and Pauline Henriette Frank was admitted to communicant membership in the Lutheran Church. No more services were held thereafter until late in the fall, when Pastor Hunziker conducted a service at the home of Michael Stroschein, ¼

mile west of here. At this service the first plans were made for the organization of a congregation. There were present at this meeting: Michael Stroschein, Friedrich Stroschein, Reinhold Frank, Julius M. Frank, David Frank, Herman Mielke, and August Stroschein. The actual organization, however, was not effected until the following summer.

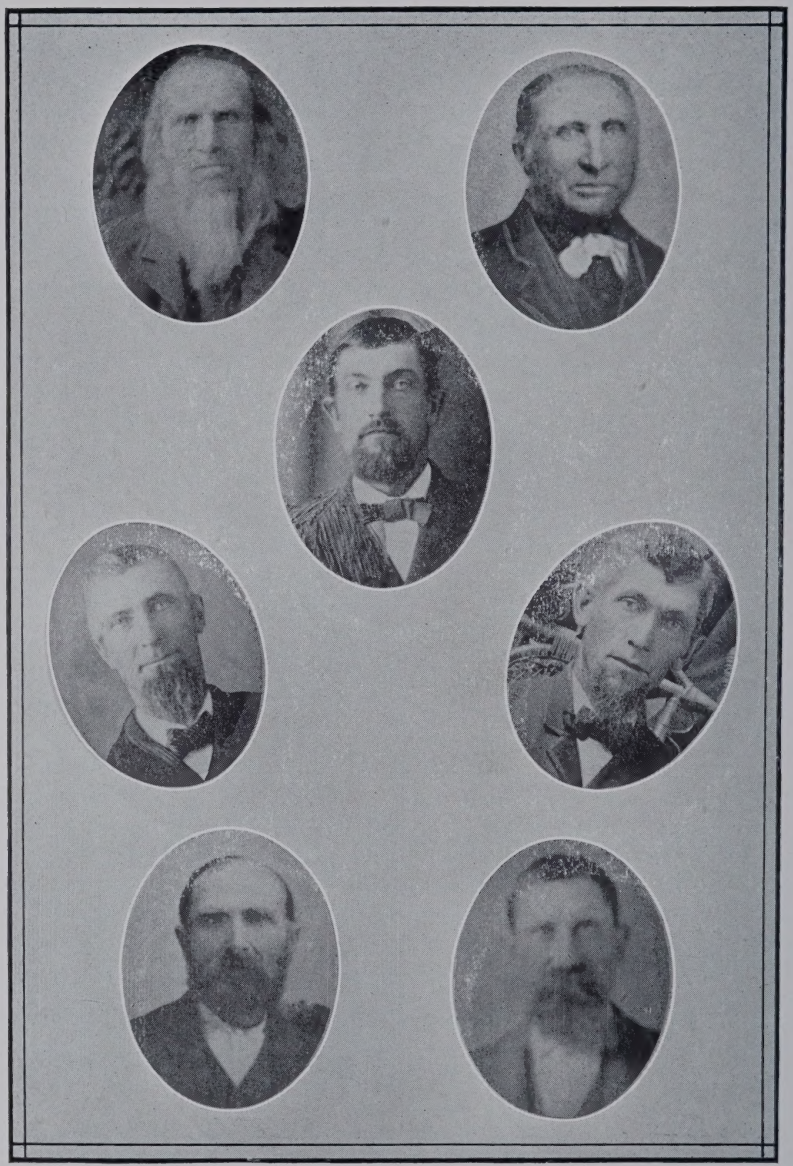
Organization And Building Of The First Church.

June 20, 1875 St.Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was organized. The following seven men were the charter members: Michael Stroschein, Friedrich Stroschein, Reinhold Frank, Julius M. Frank, David Frank, August Milbradt, and August Stroschein. All these have entered into their eternal rest with the exception of August Stroschein who is a member of the sister congregation at Wood Lake. Also the widows, Mrs. Julius M. Frank and Mrs. Reinhold Frank are still living at the time of this writing. The newly-organized congregation elected as its first board of elders Julius M. Frank, August Milbradt, and Michael Stroschein.

Pastor J. J. Hunziker was called as the first Pastor of the Congregation. He served the little flock until 1879.

During his pastorate he lived on his own farm near Cottonwood. Since the congregation owned no church as yet, Pastor Hunziker held services alternately at the homes of the members. These homes were quite primitive compared to the comfortable modern homes of the present members.

They were for the most part dug-outs and sod-shanties. Lumber was a scarce commodity at that time. It was so scarce that stove-wood was often shipped in by car-load lots, after the railroad came in 1884. Although the fledgling congregation, comprising 16 voting members, owned no property as yet, they found it necessary to acquire some church furniture. Michael Stroschein was authorized to make some 8

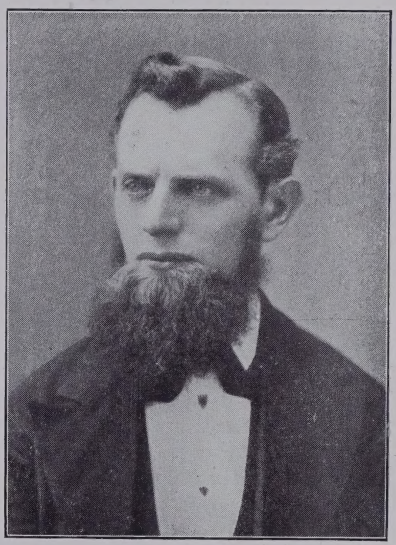


Church Founders

Michael Stroschein
Reinhold Frank
August Milbradt

Friedrich Stroschein
Julius M. Frank
David Frank
August Stroschein

foot benches for the worshippers, which were then carried from dug-out to dug-out as the members assembled on Sundays for services. On such Sundays when the Pastor was absent, serving other mission stations, the elders of the congregation read sermons for the members. Pastor Hunziker, who at one time had been a missionary in India, received no set salary. Each member however, was obligated to break three acres of land for the Pastor in stead of salary payment. After Pastor Hunziker left Posen, he continued to live on his farm near Cottonwood. In 1900 he moved to Seattle, Washington.



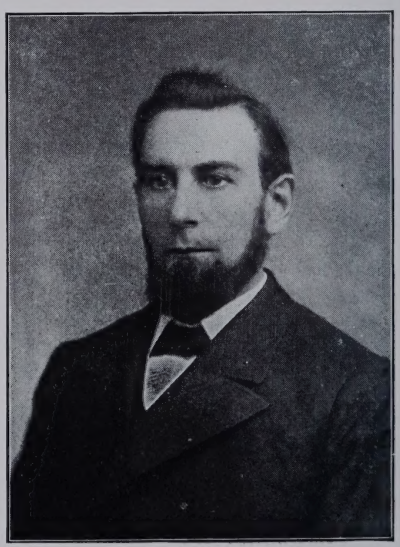
Pastor Christian Boettcher

The successor of Rev. Hunziker was Pastor Christian Boettcher. Some idea of the tireless activity of this zealous worker will be gained from the vast mission field which he served. Including St. Luke's Congregation, Pastor Boettcher served no less than 27 preaching stations 19 of which were in Minnesota and 8 in Dakota. Many travelling missionaries to-day receive a substantial allowance toward the purchase of a car together with a regular mileage allowance. Pastor Boettcher received subsidy from Synod to the extent of one team of ponies and no allowance for depreciation. He himself had to furnish the buggy. An incident from the life of Pastor Boettcher will illustrate the hardships encountered by a missionary in those days travelling from place to place across the trackless prairie. Pastor Boettcher left his headquarters at Minneota one day for a communion service at Posen. Although the communicant membership of this Church was quite small yet at this time, the Pastor carried with him three bottles of wine, well wrapped and carefully packed into his buggy. Although driving as carefully as possible, avoiding sloughs and marshes by making wide detours, his cargo of wine had dwindled to one bottle by the time he arrived. The other two had been broken in transit. "Thank God," cried the Missionary, "He has preserved the one bottle for us. We can still celebrate Communion." On another occasion Pastor Boettcher was called from Minneota to solemnize a wedding at the home of one of the members of this Congregation in Stanley Township. No sooner had the Pastor arrived and married the couple, when a snow storm broke loose with such fury that Pastor Boettcher was stranded at the home of the couple, together with most of the wedding

guests for three days and three nights before he could take his departure.

During Rev. Boettcher's pastorate the first church was built in this Congregation. (A picture of this church appears on front cover.) Three acres of land had already been donated by Michael Stroschein for this purpose in 1878. February 27, 1879 the building material was hauled out to the church grounds. The building of the Church was started that year, but was discontinued due to lack of funds, because of the grasshopper plague which had been visited upon this community during the previous two years. Services were held in the partially built church during the summer. During the winter, however, services were again held in the homes of the members. The building was finally finished in the fall of 1880. It included room for church, school, and parsonage. Its size was 24 by 18 by 10 feet with 6 windows. Precaution against destruction by prairie fires was taken by ploughing a fire-break 25 feet wide around the church property. That same year the congregation appointed its first legal representatives, the board of trustees. The first members on this board were, Friedrich Stroschein sr, Reinhold Frank, and August Milbradt sr. Also the first official delegate of the Congregation was sent to a meeting of the Synod that year, in the person of Fred Mecklenburg. Fred Stroschein was elected to be the alternate.

Pastor Boettcher was succeeded by Rev. J. C. Reinhaut, who served the congregation up to the end of the year 1883. Pastor Reinhaut also served a filiale during his pastorate, at Stanley Township 13 miles southwest of here. In 1882 the congregation decorated the inside of their church and appointed Fred Stroschein and John Bahn to make some school benches for the children for that part of the building which served as a school. January 26, 1883 the congregation decided to make an addition to that part of the building which served as parsonage. They also built chimneys for the church and parsonage. Up to that time the smoke had been drawn from the rooms by the simple method of thrusting the stove-pipe through the roof. When Rev. Reinhaut left, Pastor Boettcher was re-called as vacancy pastor. As vacancy pastor he began to preach also at Wood Lake in 1884.



Pastor Wilhelm Scheitel

In the fall of the year 1884 Pastor Wilhelm Scheitel of Montrose, Minnesota accepted the call as Pastor of this Congregation. He served for seven and one half years. During his term of office the Congregation adopted a new constitution, in 1885, modeled after that of a sister congregation in St. Paul. In the same year, August 5, permission was granted Rev. Scheitel to serve the flock at Wood Lake twice a month and the Lutherans at Redwood Falls every three weeks.

The records of the Congregation show that the following men were received into membership as voting members during the first decade, 1775-1885:

Michael Stroschein—June 20, 1875
Friedrich Stroschein—June 20, 1875
Reinhold Frank—June 20, 1875
Julius M. Frank—June 20, 1875
David Frank—June 20, 1875
August Stroschein—June 20, 1875
August Milbradt sr.—June 20, 1875
Louis Steabner—September 30, 1877
Gottlieb Timm—September 30, 1877
August Hinz—September 30, 1877
Herman Kartowietz—Sep. 30, 1877
Jacob Basler—September 30, 1877
Fred Bendix—November 11, 1877
Fred Mecklenburg—Nov. 11, 1877
John Besmeihn—December 31, 1878
Peter Schlemmer—Dec. 31, 1878
John Waechter—December 31, 1878
August Kocher—December 31, 1878
John Bahn—December 31, 1878
August Timm—December 31, 1878
Peter Petereins—December 31, 1878
Peter Mehrwoerth—Feb. 22, 1879
Gabriel Wegener—April 15, 1879
Fred Stroschein jr.—Jan. 19, 1880
Edward Hinz—June 27, 1881
Julius Jahr—June 27, 1881
Julius Frase—January 10, 1882
Rudolph Mecklenburg—Jan. 10, 1882
Ludwig Preuss—January 3, 1883
Henry Terhell—January 3, 1883
William Liskey—January 3, 1883
August Schulz—January 3, 1883
Gottfried Henke—January 3, 1883
Henry Heilmann—January 28, 1884
Herman Heller—January 28, 1884
William Weinkauf—January 7, 1885
Henry Warnke—January 7, 1885
Philip Schlemmer sr.—Jan. 7, 1885

The total number of members received during this first decade is 37. The actual membership in the year 1885 was 31.

Two things worthy of mention took place in the year 1886. The constitution which was written in German was translated into English. The first mission festival was celebrated. It was held in Michael Stroschein's grove. The festival speakers were, Rev. Jakob Frey from Moltke township near Gibbon and the Pastor of the Congregation. Peter Schlemmer officiated as the choir leader. Some of the older members still living will remember the song sung by the choir at that occasion, "Die Sach ist Dein, Herr Jesu Christ." A festival collection of $35.78 was gathered. Of this sum $20 was sent to New Ulm College and the remainder to Stillwater, where grasshoppers had destroyed the crops. In 1888, June 4, permission was given Pastor Scheitel to preach also in Echo every six weeks.

Since the flock at Posen Township had grown by leaps and bounds since 1885, totaling 53 members now, the members found that their church building proved inadequate to house the worshippers and therefore, on February 6, 1889 the Congregation resolved to build a new church. The size of this building was to be 30 by 58 by 18 feet. Although an offer was made by David Frank, Julius M. Frank, Reinhold Frank, and John Bahn to donate 40 acres of land for church grounds, two miles west of the present location, together with $200

The Second Church

from each of these men for a new church, the congregation, in its quarterly meeting, March 6, 1889 passed the resolution that the new church be built on the old grounds. In the fall of the year 1889 the new church was completed and paid for and the Congregation joyfully looked forward to the day of dedication, which was to be held yet that same fall, before winter set in. The Congregation, however, received a hard shock when it was made known to them that the contractor who had built the church and received payment not only for his work, but also for the materials used, had absconded with the money for the lumber bill. The lumber company filed a lien on the Church for $1447.76 February 4, 1890, turned the key in the door and refused to permit the Congregation to use the building until the lien had been paid. The Congregation learned to their sorrow that they would have to pay for their Church practically twice before they could dedicate it or use it. However the spirit of these pioneering Lutherans was manifested when they raised the $1447.76 within a time period of six weeks, paid off the lien and dedicated their twice-bought Church March 23, 1890. The speakers at the dedicatory service were the Rev. K. F. Schulze, the Rev. Albrecht, then president of the Minnesota Synod, Professor J. Schaller of New Ulm, and the local pastor.

It was also during this time that the Congregation began employing special parochial school teachers. The first called teacher was Student

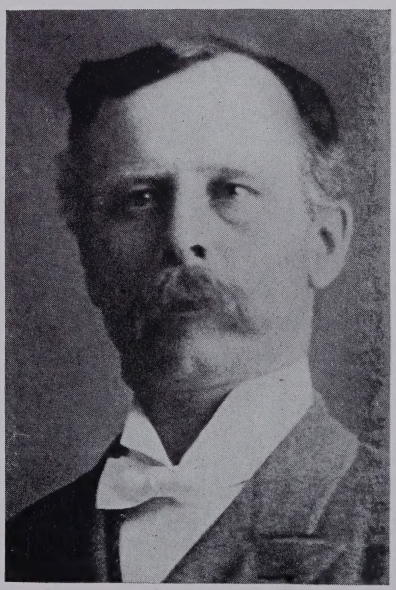
Andres, who taught parochial school in the school building of District 51, four miles southwest of the Church. He was called April 22, 1889.

The courage and faithfulness of the Congregation was soon tested again when, on New Year's Day 1892, a year and a half after its completion, the new church was destroyed by fire. A severe blizzard made it impossible to save even a portion of the building.

Scarcely had the ruins of the church building been cleared away, when the report was brought to the Congregation that their faithful Pastor had been called by the Lord of the Harvest to his eternal reward. Pastor Scheitel was drowned May 20, 1892 while attempting to ford the Yellow Medicine River on his way to perform a marriage in Hazel Run Township. The current of the river, running high from the spring rains swept away the horse's footing and the Pastor was swept to his death by the raging torrents of the angry river.

Instead of discouraging the flock, this double loss served only to knit the members more closely together, making them the more stedfast and unmoveable in the work of the Lord. They called another pastor and built a new church during the following year. The successor of Pastor Scheitel was the Rev. Ernst Fr. Mueller, who was called from Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota, November 13, 1892. He asked for and received permission from the congregation at Posen to confirm his class of catechumens in Woodbury before moving to Posen. Immediately thereafter, March 26, 1893 Pastor Mueller was installed in his new charge by Rev. A. Arndt of Wood Lake.

One of the first official acts of Pastor Mueller was the dedication of the present Church. This took place April 9, 1893. Other speakers for the occasion were Prof. Schaller of New Ulm and Pastor A. Arndt of Wood Lake. The new building measured 38 by 58 by 20 feet, which was 2 feet higher and 4 feet wider than the one which burned down. The original plans of the architect called for a full basement under the church. However, when two members of the building committee which consisted of Ludwig Preuss, Michael Stroschein, Wm. Lieske, J. H. Martins, and the board of trustees, reported that during a visit at a service in a church which had a furnace installed, they had frozen with coon skin coats on, the



Pastor E. F. Mueller

plans were revised to omit the full basement and the furnace. Soon after the new church was built, in 1893, the custom of "Christenlehre," a review of the Exposition of Luther's Small Catechism as part of the regular Sunday service, was introduced. This custom still obtains at this time. In 1893 also regular collections were introduced in the Congregation, as part of the Sunday services. The resolution pertaining to collections during services shows that the members at that time possessed a keen sense of humor, for the elders were instructed to take up these collections—"und zeitig genug vor Ende des Gottesdienstes."

Since the parsonage had become delapidated and was too small to house the family of the Pastor adequately, the Congregation erected a new, roomy, two-story parsonage in the year 1894. The building committee consisted of Wm Voigt and Wm Lieske. After paying for this, the Congregation discharged the remainder of the debt resting on the new church, which amounted to $900. The old parsonage was moved to the south of the church grounds and used for a school until 1898. The first mission festival grove was planted west of the parsonage in 1895. 74 box-elder trees were planted for this purpose. An English Mission Festival sermon was delivered for the first time in 1895. Also a congregational band which had been organized accompanied the festival singing of the Congregation.

The records of the Congregation show that the following men were received as voting members during the second decade of the Congregation's existence, 1885-1895:

Julius Propp—November 8, 1885
William Burmeister—Jan. 6, 1886
Paul Hunziker—January 6, 1886
August Rigge—January 6, 1886
Carl Behm—January 6, 1886
Carl Kartowietz—January 6, 1886
William Kohl—April 27, 1886
Philip Schmidt—May 30, 1886
William Marks—September 19, 1886
Herman Wenholz—Sep. 19, 1886
Wm. Warnke—September 19, 1886
Jacob Schrupp—September 19, 1886
Herman Rebers—January 5, 1887
Julius Freiheit—January 5, 1887
Albert Borth—February 17, 1888
Edward Gniffke—February 17, 1888
Henry Burmeister—May 21, 1888
August Schwab—June 4, 1888
Henry Schnackenberg—Jan. 9. 1889
Fred Jaeschky—January 9, 1889
William Voigt—January 9, 1889
Carl Wilkening—January 9, 1889
Adolph Rigge—January 9, 1889
Fred Giese—January 9, 1889
Gustave Kaatz—January 9, 1889
William Timm—January 9, 1889
Fred Hulke—January 8, 1890
Julius Stroschein—October 28, 1890
William Propp—January 7, 1891
Gustave Marquardt—Jan. 7, 1891
Carl Borning—January 7, 1891
Wm. F. Wenholz—April 19, 1891
John H. Martens—April 19, 1891
Robert Muralt—April 19, 1891
Louis H. Hulke—January 6, 1892
Gustav Boese—January 6, 1892
Ludwig Kaatz—February 3, 1892
Theodore Stroschein—April 3, 1892
Herman Milbradt—April 3, 1892
Max Timm sr.—April 3, 1892
August Milbradt jr.—April 3, 1892
William Milbradt—April 3, 1892
Nicklous Munsch [II]—June 4, 1893
William Harmening—June 4, 1893
Fred Duensing—June 4, 1893
Wm. Wenholz jr.—October 1, 1893
Gottlieb Rigge—October 15, 1893
Gotthold Hunziker—January 10 1894
Carl Maasch—January 10, 1894
Ferdinand Timm—January 10, 1894
Carl Rosenfeld—April 1, 1894
John Rosenfeld—June 10, 1894
Martin Schnackenberg–June 10, 1894
Heinrich Wenholz—June 10, 1894
Fred Seifert—October 14, 1894
Christ Rust—January 9, 1895

Teacher's Home School Parsonage

August Behm—January 9, 1895
Gustav Giese—January 9, 1895
Louis Klappenbach—Jan. 9, 1895
Edward Glassman—January 9, 1895
Robert Stelter—April 15, 1895
Heinrich Bosshard—April 15, 1895
Otto Stelter—April 15, 1895
Henry Stroschein—April 15, 1895

The total number of members received during this second decade is 64. The actual membership in the year 1895 was 71.

Up to this time the Congregation had been a member of the Honorable Synod of Minnesota and other States. In 1894, however, the Congregation withdrew its membership from this Synod, because it was opposed to the contemplated amalgamation of the Minnesota Synod with the Wisconsin Synod. For four years, 1894-1898 the Congregation remained, because of untoward circumstances, without synodical affiliation. In 1898 the Honorable Minnesota Synod declared that it would no longer object to the Congregation's joining the Missouri Synod. In June 1898 the Congregation then was received as member of the Honorable Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, at Good Thunder, Minnesota.

In the year 1899 the Congregation erected the building which houses the present two-room school. The size of the building is 34 by 56 feet. The committee elected to execute the building plans comprised Philip Schmidt sr, Wm. Voigt, Robert Muralt, and Peter Schlemmer. The land on which the school was built, comprising 10 acres, was donated by Peter Schlemmer. An additional 10 acres was bought from Peter Schlemmer by the Congregation April 12, 1909 for $300. Thus far the parochial school had been taught by various students and candidates. Among them were Candidates Carl Witchonke, now Pastor Witchonke of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, who taught summer school for three months in 1897 and student Otto Albrecht, who taught school for three months in the summer of 1898. The first regularly called, full time teacher was Mr. Otto Wiersig, who was called in 1899. Mr. Wiersig entered upon his duties in the new school in the fall of the same year.

The Twenty-fifth Anniversary Of The Congregation

A day of joy and thanksgiving was experienced by the Congregation October 28, 1900 when it observed its 25th Anniversary. Arrangements for the occasion had been made by a committee composed of Reinhold Frank, Ludwig Preuss, Philip Schlemmer sr, and Henry Warnke. In order to render a more lasting tribute to the grace and mercy of God, which the Congregation had enjoyed for 25 years, it was decided to install a 1200 pound bell and a pipe-organ in the church during the jubilee year. Since the organ was to be dedicated at the time of the celebration of the Anniversary, the latter had to be postponed to October. The men who performed the arduous task of installing the bell in the steeple of the Church were Wm. Voigt, Henry Schnackenberg, August Bruss sr, Friedrich Hulke, and Carl Behm sr. The bell was cast by a well known foundry in St. Louis and the organ was built

by a company in New Ulm, Minnesota. The festival speakers for the 25th Anniversary were Rev. F. Pfotenhauer, President of the Minnesota District at that time, now President of the Missouri Synod, and the Rev. Chr. Boettcher. The dedicatory address at the dedication of the bell was delivered by the local pastor, the Rev. Mueller. The bell was rung for the first time during the singing of the German hymn, "O that I had a thousand voices," No. 349 in the German hymnal.

In 1896 Pastor Mueller asked for and received permission to perform ministerial acts at Echo, 6 miles east of here. October 3, 1897 he received the call to serve also the flock at Echo township. This call he accepted, serving there for a number of years, until the members were absorbed into the larger congregation at Echo village. In 1901, April 8, the Congregation resolved to build a barn at the Church, measuring 16 by 26 by 12 feet with an addition 12 by 26 by 7 feet. In the spring of the following year the Congregation resolved to build a teacher's dwelling. The size was to be 16 by 26 by 14 feet with a kitchen 16 by 18 by 14 feet. The building committee was Wm. Voigt, August Timm sr, Peter Schlemmer, and Philip Schlemmer sr. The building was finished during the summer of 1902. Two years later a barn was also built on the school grounds of about the same dimensions as that at the Church. A Smith Heating System was installed in the school in 1906, which is still giving good service to this day.

After 5 years of faithful service Teacher O. Wiersig resigned from the office of teacher in the Congregation. He left in the spring of 1904. His successor was Teacher H. C. Fiene of Pequot, Minnesota. Teacher Fiene was installed September 1904. Up until this time the elders of the Congregation were responsible for the welfare and the supervision of the School. In the October meeting of 1903, however, Julius M. Frank was elected to the office of special School-Elder.

A number of Lutheran families residing in and near the village of Cottonwood, nine miles west of here requested Pastor Mueller to serve them in the English language during the summer of 1905. In 1906 we find Pastor Mueller serving Cottonwood three times a month. A picture of the abundance of rain which fell in this community during these years, when every pot-hole became a slough and every slough a lake is gained when we hear that in 1907 the Congregation resolved to tile and drain the pasture at the School in order to drain off the water from the cellar of the teacher's residence. Many are the stories told by the older people of how they scooped fish from the ditches and sloughs in their back-yards with pitch-forks during these times and shot wild fowl from their back-porches. From June to August 21, 1903 Pastor Mueller was absent from the Congregation on sick-leave. He used this time in this manner that he made a trip to Germany, in particular to Wuertemberg. He returned considerably improved in health and returned to his work with renewed energy and vigor.

The records of the Congregation show that the following men were received as voting members during the third decade of the Congregation's existence, 1895-1905:

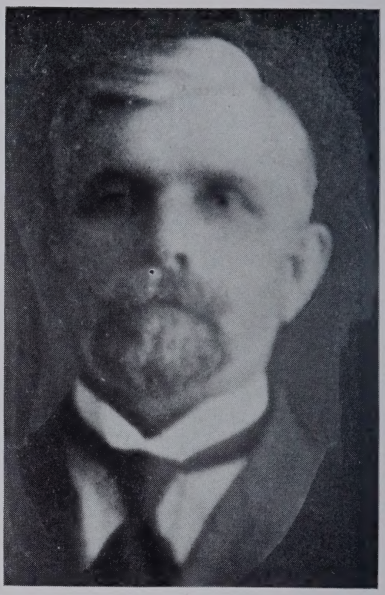
Nicolaus Munsch [III]—July 7, 1895
William Doege—January 8, 1896
Henry Markgraf—April 6, 1896
John Rucks—April 6, 1896
Ferdinand Stroschein—April 6, 1896
Otto Maasch—April 6, 1896
William Muenchow—July 5, 1896
William Hulke—July 5, 1896
Louis Fiene—July 25, 1897
Fredrick Seifert—October 3, 1897
Carl Heyer—October 3, 1897
Paul Gutknecht—October 3, 1897
Dietrich Rust—January 5, 1898
August Werner—January 5, 1898
Rev. J. J. Hunziker—January 5, 1898
Herman Preuss—January 5, 1898
August Bruss sr.—January 5, 1898
Christopher Radunz—Aug. 14, 1898
Gustav Volkmann—August 14, 1898
Ferdinand Schulz—January 4, 1899
Carl Rehfeld—January 4, 1899
Rudolph Propp—April 3, 1899
Carl Wigand—April 3, 1899
Carl Dietz—April 3, 1899
Herman Abraham—April 3, 1899
William Rosenfeld—April 3, 1899
August Milbradt jr.—April 3, 1899
John Behrens—July 2, 1899
Otto Wiersig—January 10, 1900
Albert Frank—April 21, 1900
Gottlieb Heyer—April 21, 1900
Adam Naab—July 1, 1900
Christian Prechel—January 9, 1901
W. C. Bode—January 9, 1901
Louis Hulke—January 9, 1901
Adolph Weiss—January 9, 1901
Herman Bahn—January 9, 1901
Louis Bahn—January 9, 1901
Edward Hinz—January 9, 1901
Henry Gniffke—April 8, 1901
Reuben Frank—October 20, 1901
August Mohwinkel—October 20,1901
Christian Schmidt—January 8, 1902
Paul Renneke—March 31, 1902
John Lange—March 31, 1902
John Vitt—March 31, 1902
Albert Bruss—October 5, 1902
William Toltzmann—Oct. 5, 1902
Carl Preuss—October 5, 1902
Theodore Hunziker—Oct. 5, 1902
Edward Behm—April 13, 1903
Edward Goltz—April 13, 1903
Christian Schlemmer—July 5, 1903
Herman Bruss—January 4, 1904
Edward Wichmann—July 31, 1904
Herman Kremin—July 31, 1904
Gustav Kremin—July 31, 1904
H. C. Fiene—October 2, 1904
Julius Stelter—January 11, 1905
Henry Zorn—January 11, 1905
Emil Stelter—January 11, 1905
Fred Ginffke—April 24, 1905

The total number of members received during this third decade is 62. The actual membership in the year 1905 was 82.

In the latter part of the fall of 1908 Pastor Mueller's health began failing again. The same symptoms appeared which forced him to discontinue work temporarily in 1903. He again asked for and received a temporary leave of absence from his work in the Congregation. He spent three weeks at the sanatorium at Anoka, Minnesota. The relief, however, was only temporary and after the exacting work during the winter months, the Pastor found it advisable to relinquish his position in the ministry and retire from office. He asked for and received his peaceful dismissal from the Congregation May 16, 1909, after 16 years of faithful, consecrated service in St. Luke's Congregation. He preached his farewell sermon June 20, 1909.

St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Congregation—May 5, 1935

In the summer of 1909 Pastor Ph. Laux was called from Martinsville, New York, of the Eastern District of Synod. Pastor Laux was installed on the 13. Sunday after Trinity by Pastor J. J. Oetjen. During his pastorate in this Congregation Pastor Laux also served Cottonwood, from the summer of 1911 to 1913. The successor of Pastor Laux at Cottonwood was the Rev. Mommsen. March 24, 1913 Pastor Laux tendered his resignation to the Congregation at Posen. The Congregation, however, would not accept it. During the summer the Pastor renewed his plea for a peaceful dismissal and the Congregation accepted his resignation July 6, 1913.



Pastor Ph. Laux

Teacher H. C. Fiene resigned from the office of teacher in the summer of 1911 on account of ill health. Teacher C. F. Isberner was called to succeed Mr. Fiene, July 23, 1911. Teacher Isberner worked in the Congregation's School for eight years. Thereafter he accepted a call to Fairfield Township, near Holloway, Minnesota, April 28, 1919. Teacher F. W. Ehlen of Lester Prairie, Minnesota, succeeded Mr. Isberner and was installed on the 8. Sunday after Trinity of the same year. During the time of Teacher Ehlen the male choir and the Ladies' Aid of the Congregation were organized. He served the Congregation for seven years in the capacity of Teacher.

During the fourth decade of the Congregation's existence, 1905-1915, the following men were received as voting members:

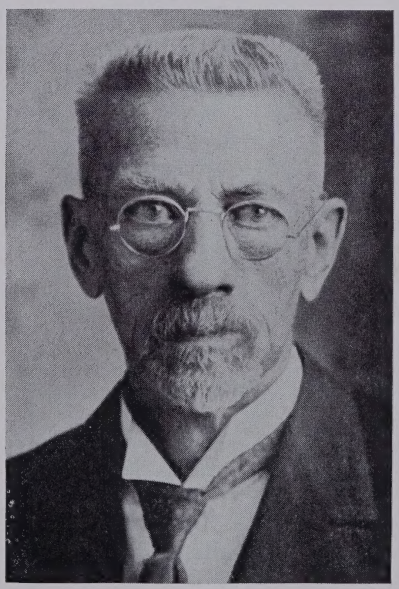
Otto Hell—July 16, 1905
George Rebers—January 10, 1906
Fred Warnke—January 10, 1906
Philip J. Schlemmer—April 16, 1906
Henry Hulke—April 16, 1906
Otto Preuss—January 8, 1908
Arthur Wigand—January 8, 1908
Ferdinand Scheer—January 8, 1908
August Stroschein—January 8, 1908
Herman Frank—January 6, 1909
August M. Timm—April 12, 1909
Gottlieb Timm—May 31, 1909
W. J. Timm—January 10, 1910
Frank Schmidtke—January 10, 1910
Max Glaubke—January 10, 1910
David Bahn—January 10, 1910
George Schnackenberg—Jan. 4, 1911
Henry Bruss—January 4, 1911
Gustav Severin—January 4, 1911
George Volkmann—January 4, 1911
William Wenholz—April 17, 1911
Herman Mielke—January 10, 1912
Carl Wigand—January 10, 1912
Philip Schmidt jr.—Jan. 10, 1912

August Bruss jr.—January 10, 1912
Herman Hulke—January 8, 1913
Henry Schwartz—March 24, 1913
Wm. A. Timm—January 7, 1914
Reinhold Sawatzky—Jan. 7, 1914
Ernest Sawatzky—January 7, 1914
Robert Frank—January 7, 1914
Emil Heller—April 13, 1914
Julius R. Frank—January 6, 1915
Rudolph Preuss—January 6, 1915

The total number of members received during this fourth decade is 34. The actual membership in the year 1915 was 85.

A number of improvements in the Church and School were made at this time. In 1911 the Congregation voted $200 for re-decorating the interior of the Church. In 1916 they decided to install a furnace under the Church. The winter of that year, however, soon disclosed that the type of furnace which had been installed was altogether too small for the heating requirements of so large a building. In 1917, in fall, the Congregation, therefore, took out the first furnace and installed a larger one. March 28, 1921 the Congregation granted Teacher Ehlen permission to teach religion also through the medium of the English language. In 1923 a plat of the Congregation's cemetery was prepared by Arthur Wigand, W. C. Bode, Herman Preuss and the Pastor.

After the resignation of Pastor Laux in 1913, the Rev. J. Brauer of Rushford, Hart Township, Winona County, Minnesota was called as Pastor. He was installed on the 19. Sunday after Trinity in the year 1913 by Pastor August Hertwig.



Rev. J. Brauer

Fiftieth Anniversary Of The Congregation.

On the 28th of June 1925, the Congregation celebrated its 50th Anniversary. About 2,000 people from far and near attended the celebration. The morning services were conducted by President H. Meyer of Lakefield, in the German language. In the afternoon Pastor H. Faedtke, now of Appleton, Minnesota, delivered the English and Pastor K. Reuter of Green Isle, the German address. Pastor Brauer read a short history of the Congregation. For this occasion the Congregation had the Church reshingled for $350, re-decorated the interior for $800 and bought 40 folding chairs. The ladies of the Congregation bought a new carpet for the chancel for $140 and new pulpit and altar coverings for $80.

During the fifth decade of St. Luke's history, 1915-1925, the following men were received as voting members:

Wm. Wilkening—October 10, 1915
George Timm—January 5, 1916
Louis Meier—April 24, 1916
Henry Geistfeld—October 1, 1916
Paul Renneke—October 1, 1916
John Stroschein—January 10, 1917
Louis Voigt—October 7, 1917
Julius Timm—April 1, 1918
Ruben Rigge—April 1, 1918
Joe Lafrentz—April 1, 1918
Wm. Gniffke—January 8, 1919
Geo. Mielke—January 8, 1919
Walter Wenholz—January 8, 1919
Max A. Timm—January 8, 1919
Fred Mielke—January 7, 1920
Martin Bruss—January 7, 1920
F. G. Naab—January 7, 1920
David W. Frank—January 7, 1920
Anton Markgraf—January 7, 1920
Harry Timm—April 5, 1920
August J. Bode—January 5, 1921
Herman Rastedt—January 5, 1921
Louis F. Rebers—January 5, 1921
Arthur Timm—January 5, 1921
George Lafrentz—January 5, 1921
Hugo Fiene—March 28, 1921
Ernest Prechel—October 9, 1921
Carl Marquardt—October 9, 1921
George Klein—January 11, 1922
Carl Hulke—April 17, 1922
Adolph Warnke—October 1, 1922
Henry C. Schlemmer—April 2, 1923
August Belling—October 7, 1923
Harry Wigand—October 7, 1923
Awaldt Stroschein—January 9, 1924
Eddie J. Prechel—January 9, 1924
Reuben Markgraf—April 21, 1924
Ezra A. Renneke—April 21, 1924
Willie Brauer—April 13, 1925

The total number of members received during this fifth decade is 40. The actual membership in the year 1925 was 86.

In the fall of 1926 Teacher F. W. Ehlen accepted a call to Gibbon Minnesota and Teacher J. Raedeke, of Waterville, Minnesota was called to be his successor. He was installed on the 20. Sunday after Trinity. In the Easter meeting of the Congregation in 1929 Pastor Brauer tendered his resignation to the Congregation. The Congregation, however, would not accept his resignation. In the October meeting of the same year, however, the Congregation granted Pastor Brauer a peaceable dismissal upon his request that he be released, because of his advanced age, being 73 years old, and because of the need of work in the English language in the Congregation. Pastor Brauer agreed to serve the Congregation until his successor would be installed. After calling two different pastors and having the call re-

turned, the Congregation finally called Candidate W. Poehler, who accepted the call and was ordained and installed by Pastor Brauer on New Year's Day, 1930. Pastor Brauer now retired to a well-earned rest, making his home at Echo, Minnesota.

Rev. W. Poehler

Among the improvements and changes made by the Congregation during the past ten years are the following. In 1927 a spacious porch was added to the teacher's dwelling. Beginning with the new school year in the fall of 1927 English religious instruction in the Christian Day School of the Congregation was made obligatory. In 1928 a new double Holland Furnace was installed in the Church which, including the electric plant for driving the circulating fans, involved an outlay of $1300. The Church was wired and electric lights were installed by the young people of the Congregation. A year later, 1930, the Ladies' Aid equipped the parsonage with electric light. January 8, 1930 the Congregation voted to have English and German services on an equal basis. At present the services are held alternately, one Sun-

day German and the next Sunday English. That same summer the Congregation had the Church painted for $210. In the spring of 1931 a new mission festival grove was planted west of the parsonage. 65 Chinese Elm and 20 Hackberry trees were planted. In the fall of the same year an adult Bible class was organized. Also the first reunion service of former confirmands was held in the spring of 1930. Members of the 10 previous classes attended the service and the former Pastor Brauer delivered the sermon.

Since the equipment at the School was sadly in need of replacement, the Congregation created an annual fund of $50 for new equipment. In this manner the School is gradually being brought up to standard in equipment. Books which the parents were formerly required to buy for their school children are now being furnished by the School. In the summer meeting of 1931 a temporary school board consisting of three members was created to supervise the needs and the work of the School in the Congregation. The first members to be elected to this board were J. R. Frank and Henry Schlemmer, who together with the former school-elder, Henry Geistfeld, formed the first School-Board. In the annual meeting 1932 this arrangement was made permanent. The envelope system was introduced into the Congregation at the annual meeting of 1932. At present the single-pocket, unified-budget, weekly envelope system is being used in the Congregation. The following men composed the first finance board, Alfred Bode, George Timm, and Albert Bruss.

During the summer of 1931 Teacher John Raedeke resigned and Candidate E. E. Pagels, graduate of the Teachers' Seminary at Seward, Nebraska was called to be his successor. Mr. Pagels was installed August 2, 1931. August 7, 1932 an assistant teacher was called in the person of Mr. Edgar Eifert, Student of Theology of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. The School had already been re-arranged for two rooms in 1930 when the pastor offered to assist the teacher by taking charge of the lower grades. For the school year of 1933-34 Candidate Arnold Kretzschmar of Chatfield, Minnesota was engaged as assistant to the teacher and the present assistant to the teacher is Student Harold Bode, of this Congregation. Teacher Pagels also taught summer school at the Church for 6 weeks during the summers of 1933 and 1934 for those children who as yet did not attend the parochial school.

During the 60 years of its existence this Congregation has supplied the Church at large with 7 men for the ministerial office: Peter Schlemmer, jr, Joseph Klausler, George Scheitel, George Propp, Reuben Ehlen, Harold Bode and Orville Markgraf; and two persons who have served Synod in the capacity as teacher, George Warnke and Miss Clara Timm.

The Parochial School Children

During the sixth decade, 1925-1935 St. Luke's Congregation received as voting members the following men:

Arthur Rigge—October 4, 1925
Walter T. Stroschein—Jan. 6, 1926
Clarence E. Renneke—Jan. 6, 1926
Erwin F. Timm—April 5, 1926
Walter Behm—September 12, 1926
Alfred L. Bode—September 12, 1926
Albert G. Schlemmer—Oct. 3, 1926
Walter Naab—October 3, 1926
Aug. R. Werner—May 8, 1927
Albert Pagel—October 1, 1927
Fred Baer—January 4, 1928
Herman Schulz—April 9, 1928
Harold Bahn—April 1, 1929
Wm. C. Rengstorf—April 1, 1929
Walter A. Timm—January 9, 1930
Elmer Mohwinkel—January 9, 1930
Herbert Wigand—January 9, 1930
Wilbert Mohwinkel—January 9,1930
Erwin A. Bruss—January 9, 1930
Gerold W. Propp—January 9, 1930
Walter L. Markgraf—Jan. 9, 1930
Gerold A. Bruss—January 9, 1930
Edwin E. Wigand—March 25, 1930
Alfred Gigstad—March 26, 1930
Albert Siegel—March 26, 1930
Albert Hulke—March 28, 1930
Alvin Bahn—January 7, 1931
Ernest Rigge—January 7, 1931
Walter Geistfeld—January 7, 1931
Edgar Bode—January 7, 1931
Ewald Behm—January 7, 1931
Carl Behm jr.—January 7, 1931
Oscar Behm—January 7, 1931
Walter Bruss—January 7, 1931
Arnold Voigt—January 7, 1931
W. A. Poehler—January 7, 1931
John Raedeke—January 7, 1931
George Rebers—April 4, 1931
Alfred Goltz—May 19, 1931
John Anklam—May 19, 1931
Ernest Bruss—July 2, 1931
Walter Munsch—April 8, 1932
Carl Patrikus—January 4, 1933
Ernst Pagels—January 4, 1933
Clarence Chapman—January 4, 1933
Walter Zorn—January 4, 1933
Marvin Markgraf—January 4, 1933
W. A. Timm—March 26, 1933
Martin Behrman—April 6, 1933
Emil Heller—April 14, 1933
Ernest W. Meyer—July 2, 1933
Wm. Gniffke—January 10, 1934
Victor C. Munsch—January 10, 1934
Wilbert Volkmann—March 4, 1934
Harry Timm—June 2, 1935
Leopold Schulz—June 2, 1935

The total number of members received during this sixth decade is 56. The actual membership in the year 1935 is 102.

The following is an excerpt from the statistical records of St. Luke's Church: During its 60 years of existence 1041 persons were baptized in this congregation; 553 were confirmed; 27,874 were communed; 184 couples were married; and 239 persons were accorded a Christian burial. At the present time the Congregation numbers 457 baptized members; 324 communicant members; and 102 voting members.

May the God of all grace and mercy, who has abundantly blessed this Congregation in the past, guide, preserve, and bless it also in the future until such a time, when with all its members it shall be translated into the Church Triumphant. Until then may its members remain stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Church Officers

Left to Right, Back Row:—Harold Bode, Assistant Teacher; Wm. Brauer, Trustee; Henry Schlemmer, Elder; Arthur Timm, Trustee; Philip Schmidt, Elder; Henry Bruss, Trustee; Herman Bruss, Elder; Louis Voigt, School Board; David Bahn, Elder; August Bode, School Board; Henry Geistfeld, School Board.

Front Row:—Ernest Pagels, Teacher; Max A. Timm, Secretary; Albert Bruss, Chairman; Alfred Bode, Treasurer; Rev. W. A. Poehler, Pastor.

ORGANIZATIONS

Brief History Of The Choirs Of The Congregation.

The oldest organization in the Congregation is the mixed choir. Before the Congregation owned an organ, when the singing at services was lead by a "Vorsaenger," one of the members, Mr. Peter Schlemmer, already conducted a mixed choir. When the first called teacher came, Mr. Wiersig, he took over the leading of the choir. The successors of Mr. Wiersig in the office of Teacher have continued the work of training the young people in the art of part-singing. Some of the present singers are the grandchildren of the original members of the mixed choir. It should also be mentioned that the mixed choir for many years took the place of the present young people's society, arranging entertainments, giving plays, and in general providing recreation for the Congregation during the long winter months.

The male choir of the Congregation is of more recent date. It was organized by Teacher F. W. Ehlen soon after his arrival in this Con-

Male Choir

Back Row: Walter Timm Ernest Bruss, Louis Rebers, Marvin Bruss, Harold Bode, Orville Timm, Clarence Mohwinkel, ErvinTimm, Dir.—E. E. Pagels.

Front Row:—Henry Schlemmer, J. R. Frank, Herman Frank, George Timm, Louis Voigt.

gregation in 1919. The original male choir included the following members: Henry Bruss and Louis Voigt, I Tenor; Wm. Wilkening and W. A. Timm, II Tenor; J. R. Frank, Henry Schlemmer, and Max A. Timm, I Bass; and George Timm, Julius Timm, and Herman Frank, II Bass. The male choir sings all its numbers A Cappella. Although it is bi-lingual and on occasion sings also in English, it has taken over almost exclusively the German choir-work in the Congregation. The male choir, and the mixed choir usually round off the festival half of the Church year with a Song-service, which is held on Cantate Sunday evening. Under the leadership of Teacher E. E. Pagels also a fine children's choir is being developed at the School.

Mixed Choir

Left to Right, Back Row: Director Pagels, Harold Bode, Dellas Bahn, Edgar Bode, Ervin Bode, Herman Bahn.

Middle Row: Martin Bahn, Clarence Mohwinkel, Marvin Bahn, Leroy Timm, Loren Bruss.

Front Row: Bernice Timm, Verna Bahn, Adeline Bruss, Hannah Bahn, Ethel Bahn, Gertrude Frank, Renda Bahn.

Brief History Of The Ladies' Aid Society.

The Ladies' Aid Society is one of the older organizations in the Congregation. It was organized November 4, 1920 at the Parsonage of the Church. Charter members of the organization were: Mrs. F. W. Ehlen, Mrs. J. Brauer, Mrs. W. C. Bode, Mrs. Max Timm sr, Mrs. Aug. J. Bode, Mrs. Wm. Propp, Mrs. Aug. Mohwinkel, Mrs. Henry Markgraf, Mrs. Geo. Lafrentz, and Miss Elda Propp. The first members to serve as officers of the Society were: Mrs. F. W. Ehlen, president, Mrs. Wm. Propp, vice president, Mrs. W. C. Bode, treasurer, Mrs. J. Brauer, secretary.

The purpose of the Society is, as its name indicates, to lend aid to the Congregation and the Church at large through the performance of such work as is particularly adapted to the abilities of women. Particularly when larger gatherings are held in the Congregation, such as mission festivals, conferences of pastors, lay conferences, etc. the ladies make the arrangements for the lodging and feeding of the guests.

Ladies' Aid Society

Back Row:—Mrs. Willian Gniffke, Mrs. George Timm, Mrs. Alfred Bode, Mrs. Ernest Meier, Mrs. Hugo Fiene, Treasurer, Mrs. Erwin Bruss, Mrs. Albert Bruss, Mrs. W. A. Poehler, Mrs. J. R. Frank, Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Pagels, Mrs. Ezra Renneke, Mrs. Harold Bahn, Mrs. Herman Frank, Mrs. George Volkmann.

Front Row: — Mrs. Aug. Bode, President, Mrs. Herman Bahn, Mrs. Henry Markgraf, Mrs. W. C. Bode, Mrs. Aug. Mohwinkel, Mrs. Max Timm, Sr.

However, this is not the only work the members do. They meet regularly each month of the year except August. A portion of their time is devoted to the consideration of some chapter of the Bible, hearing reports on the work of the Church at home and abroad, conducting topic studies on Missions, History of Missions, Institutional Mission Work and the like. After a business meeting, the rest of their time is spent in quilting, sewing, and making clothing for institutions and discussing the Work of the Church. At times the Aid is called upon to serve at public gatherings outside of the immediate Congregation. The collecting of food and clothing for the College and Orphanage in the Twin Cities, also the shipping of donations, is usually taken care of by the Ladies' Aid for the Congregation. A list of the institutions which have received help from the Ladies' Aid includes the Feeble-Minded Home at Watertown, Wisconsin, the Deaf Mute Home at Detroit, Michigan, Valpariso University, of Indiana, the Negro and Indian Missions, the Wheat Ridge Sanitarium in Colorado and various Old People's Homes. Besides these contributions for flood and drought stricken people have been made whenever appeals for help came.

Also the local congregation has been well remembered by this organization. In 1923 the Aid installed two stained-glass windows in the chancel of the Church. When the Congregation decided to redecorate the Church in 1925 the Ladies' Aid contributed $300 toward this project and also supplied $78 worth of altar and pulpit coverings. The hymn boards and collection baskets are gifts from the Aid. In 1929 the Congregation was the recipient of an ornamental iron cemetery arch-way. Since the Congregation decided to replace the old furnace in the Church the Ladies' Aid made a substantial contribution toward the purchase of it. In 1930 the Aid equipped the parsonage with electric lights and in 1933 replaced the worn-out batteries of the light plant in the Church. Including contributions toward current repairs and improvements of the grounds and buildings at the School and the Church this organization has disbursed $2066 to the local congregation during the 15 years of its existence and $710 to the Church at large.

The present membership list includes the following: Mrs. Herman Bahn, Mrs. Harold Bahn, Mrs. Alf. Bode, Mrs. Aug. Bode, Mrs. Alb. Bruss, Mrs. W. C. Bode, Mrs. Erwin Bruss, Mrs Hugo Fiene, Mrs. Herman Frank, Mrs. Julius R. Frank, Mrs. Wm. Gniffke, Mrs. Henry Markgraf, Mrs. Aug. Mohwinkel, Mrs. E. E. Pagels, Mrs. W. A. Poehler, Mrs. Max Timm sr, Mrs. Ezra Renneke, Mrs. Geo. Timm, Mrs. Geo. Volkmann, and Mrs. Ernest Meyer.

Brief History Of The Walther League Society.

At a meeting of the Adult Bible Class early in the fall of 1933 the matter of a young people's society, modeled after the recommendation of Synod, was discussed by the younger members. A committee composed of a number of the Bible Class members, together with Rev. Arnold Kretzschmar, the assistant teacher at that time, was appointed to draw up the plans for a preliminary meeting and send out invitations to all the young people of the Congregation. The date for the meeting was set for October 27, 1933. Rev. H. W. Moehring, Pastor of the Lutheran Church at Montevideo, Minnesota, and an ardent worker among the young people of this state, was invited to deliver an inspirational address.

On the evening of October 27, an enthusiastic crowd of young people assembled at the Parochial School. By an overwhelming majority the resolution to organize a young people's society was passed. The arrangements committee was retained to prepare a constitution for the society. Pastor Moehring, although favoring the eventual affiliation with the International Walther League, agreed that it would be somewhat premature for a newly-organized group of young people, still unacquainted with the work of the League, to join the larger group. Nevertheless, by a close vote, it was decided to join the International Walther League at this first meeting. Two months later, however, December 1, this motion was rescinded and the organization remains up to the present time unaffiliated with the International Walther League.

On the evening of November 3, the first regular meeting of the young people's society was held and a constitution, modeled after that of the Walther League Societies, was adopted. The name chosen for the local Society is: The Walther League of the St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Posen Township, Wood Lake, Minnesota. Some of the objects of the Society according to their constitution are:

1) To assist in keeping the young people within the church.
2) To promote systematic study of the Bible.
3) To assist in training well-informed, intelligent, active, and efficient workers in the Church at large and at home.
4) To render hospice service to fellow Lutherans and others who are away from home.
5) To further love for, and to assist in increasing active participation in the Mission Work of our Church.
6) To foster Christian love, fellowship, and sociability.
7) To encourage the support of charitable endeavors.
8) To promote loyalty to the Christian home.
9) To establish a closer outward union between our Lutheran young people.

Our Walther League

After the Constitution was adopted, 69 Charter Members signed it. The first group of officers representing the Society were: Carl Behm jr, president; Alice Rigge, vice president; Adeline Gniffke, recording secretary; Harold Geistfeld, treasurer; Delbert Bruss, librarian; and Teacher E. E. Pagels, Walther League secretary. Membership dues were set at 10c per month per member.

The newly-organized society divided their time as follows: a business and social meeting each first Friday of the month; a Bible Study Hour each second, third, and fourth Friday of the month; and an educational meeting whenever there is a fifth Friday in the month. Lectures on "Synod's Educational Work," "Synod's Missions," "The Holy Land," etc have been given on educational nights by speakers who were qualified to discuss these topics. Among the charitable activities of the Society, the annual Wheat Ridge Christmas Seal Campaign holds a large place in its program. Also the annual subscription drive for Synod's publications, the *Lutheran Witness* and the *Lutheraner* is conducted by the Society for the Congregation. Another of the objects which the Society has set for itself is dignified publicity for the local congregation. The members have presented a bulletin board and a tract rack to the Congregation for this purpose. For the Open Bible Anniversary, November 4, 1934, the Society placed a Bible Display in the neighboring town. The Society also supplies the local library and reading-room with church periodicals.

Sports and recreational activities fostered by the organization are tennis, kittenball, volley-ball, music, dramatics, and debating. During the summer of 1934 the Society built a tennis court at the School grounds. Six public plays have been presented by the members. An orchestra furnishes music for social occasions. Also a ladies' quartette has been organized. The debating team, composed of 8 members, has so far given one public debate. A fellowship banquet was given in the fall of 1934 for the purpose of uniting more closely the young people in the congregation and interesting them in the work of the Church. A group of 30 of the members attended the first Yellowbank Conference Young People's Rally at Odessa July 29, 1934. The first Winter Conference of the Yellowbank young people was arranged by this Society and held here, February 24, 1935.

The Society is also much interested in acquiring a suitable meeting place for the young people of the Congregation and has gathered somewhat less than $100 for the purpose of building such a place. The Society at present meets in the School auditorium, which can hardly accomodate the 46 members.

Kurze Geschichte der Ev. Luth. St. Lukas Gemeinde, Ungeänderte Augsburgische Konfession, zu Town Posen, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota.

Die Gemeinde hiesigen Ortes wurde am 20. Juni 1875 von Pastor J. J. Hunziker organisiert. Der erste Gottesdienst wurde jedoch schon im Sommer des vorrigen Jahres gehalten und zwar war dies ein Leichengottesdienst, zu welchem Pastor Hunziker gerufen wurde von Town Sheridan bei Redwood Falls, als David Frank, Sr, der schon in 1870 in diese Gegend zog, starb. Später im Herbst hielt Pastor Hunziker einen zweiten Gottesdienst für die Lutheraner in dieser Gegend. Zu der Gelegenheit ging man schon um mit dem Gedanken, eine Gemeinde zu organisieren, und die ersten Pläne dazu wurden gefaßt. Anwesend bei der Versammlung waren: Michael Stroschein, Friedrich Stroschein, Reinhold Frank, Julius M. Frank, David Frank, Jr, Herman Mielke, und August Stroschein. Die tatsächliche Organization wurde jedoch erst im folgenden Sommer vollzogen am 20. Juni. Die 7 Gründer der Gemeinde sind demnach: Michael Stroschein, Friedrich Stroschein, Reinhold Frank, Julius M. Frank, David Frank, Jr., August Milbradt, Sr., und August Stroschein. Von diesen ist gegenwärtig nur noch einer am Leben, August Stroschein, der gliedlich der benachbarten Gemeinde angeschloßen ist. Auch die Witwen, Frau Julius M. Frank und Frau Reinhold Frank sind noch am Leben.

Bis zum Jahre 1879 wurde die St. Lukas Gemeinde von Pastor Hunziker bedient. Hierauf folgte in der Bedienung derselben Pastor Christian Boettcher, der als Reiseprediger diese Gemeinde alle 5 Wochen treulich bediente während eines Zeitraums von etwas über 2 Jahren. In dieser Zeit wurde auch das erste Kirchlein gebaut. In 1880 schloß sich die Gemeinde der Ehrw. Minnesota Synode gliedlich an. Der Deputierte der Gemeinde in dem Jahr war Friedrich Mecklenberg, Sr. Bis gegen Ende des Jahres 1883 bediente Pastor J. C. Reinhaut die hiesige Gemeinde. Nach einer länceren Vakanz, während welcher wiederum Pastor Boettcher die Gemeinde bediente, trat im Herbste des Jahres 1884 Pastor Wilhelm Scheitel sein Amt an dieser Gemeinde an. Während dieser Zeit begann man auch in Wood Lake Gottesdienste zu halten. Das Häuflein an dem Ort wurde von hieraus bedient bis zum Jahre 1892.

In die Amtszeit Pastor Scheitels fällt der Bau des 2. Kirchengebäudes (1890), welches allerdings nur etwa 1½ Jahre stand, indem am Neujahrstage 1892 diese Kirche während eines heftigen Schneesturmes ein Raub der Flammen wurde. Herr Pastor Scheitel arbeitete in großem Segen in diesem Arbeitsfeld während eines Zeitraums von etwa 7½ Jahren. Nach Gottes unerforschlichem aber gnädigen Ratschluß verlor die Gemeinde diesen ihren Seelsorger am 20. Mai 1892 durch einen Unglücksfall. Der Tod ereilte ihn auf seinem Amtswege, als er, um eine Trauung zu vollziehen in Hazelrun, den hochangeschwollenen Yellow Medicine Fluß kreuzen wollte. Er ertrank in den Fluten des genannten Flußes. So hatte die Gemeinde im Jahre 1892 zwei herbe Verluste zu verzeichnen. Doch der Herr stärkte sein

Volk, daß es nicht verzagte und wehrte dem Satan, seiner Gemeinde Schaden zu tun. Die bis zum Jahre 1892 auf nahezu 50 stimmberechtigte Glieder angewachsene Gemeinde ging in fröhlichem Gottvertrauen daran, wieder eine Kirche zu bauen und einen neuen Seelsorger zu berufen. Sie fand einen solchen in der Person des Pastor Ernst Fr. Mueller, der im März 1893 sein Amt antrat. Eine seiner ersten Amtshandlungen war, die neuerbaute, schön und geräumige, jetzige Kirche dem Dienst des dreieinigen Gottes zu weihen. Dies geschah am 9. April 1893. Festprediger waren: Professor Schaller von New Ulm und Pastor A. Arndt von Wood Lake.

Auch in den nun folgenden Jahren war Gottes Gnade und Segen mit der Gemeinde. Sie vergrößerte sich von Jahr zu Jahr und wies im Jahre 1900 die Zahl von 80 stimmberechtigte Glieder auf. Da die seitheriae Pfarrwohnung in schlechtem Zustande und räumlich ungenügend war, so errichtete die Gemeinde im Jahre 1894 ein neues Pfarrhaus. Nachdem dasselbe bezahlt war, ging sie daran, den Rest der Schulden, $900, die noch auf den Kirchbau lasteten, abzutragen.

Auch in der Kindererziehung erkannte die Gemeinde von Anbeginn ihres Bestehens ihre Pflicht und suchte derselben treulich nachzukommen. Schon in der ersten Kirche (1879) wurde ein besonderer Raum abgesondert für Schulzwecke. Am 22. April 1889 berief die Gemeinde Student Andres als Schullehrer für die Sommermonate. In 1897 hielt der Predigtamtskandidat Carl Witchonke die Schule während des Sommers; in 1898 ein Student mit Namen Otto Albrecht. Im Jahre 1899 baute die Gemeinde ein zweckentsprechendes Schulhaus 34 Fuß breit und 56 Fuß lang und berief einen Lehramtskandidaten in der Person des Herrn Otto A. Wiersig.

In betreff der synodalen Verbindung ist zu erwähnen, daß die St. Lukas Gemeinde bis zum Jahre 1894 gliedlich mit der Ehrw. Synode von Minnesota u. a. St. verbunden war. Im genannten Jahre vollzog sie, nachdem ihr eine friedliche Entlassung aus dem Verbande der Minnesota Synode nicht gewährt worden war, ihren Austritt aus derselben, da sie die von der Minnesota Synode vollzogene Vereinigung mit der Synode von Wisconsin und Michigan für ihre Verhältnisse nicht für weislich und heilsam erkennen konnte. Vier Jahre, von 1894-98 blieb sie, durch die Umstände genötigt, ohne synodale Verbindung. Im Jahre 1898 erklärte endlich die Minnesota Synode, daß ihrerseits dem Anschluß der St. Lukas Gemeinde an die Ehrw. Missouri Synode nichts mehr im Wege stehe und so wurde dann im Juni 1898 die Gemeinde bei der Synodalversammlung in Good Thunder, Minnesota in den Verband der Ehrw. Synode von Missouri, Ohio und andern Staaten aufgenommen.

Ein Tag großer Freude war der Gemeinde beschieden, als sie am 28. Oktober 1900 das Jubiläum ihres 25-jährigen Bestehens feiern durfte. Um ihren Lob und Dank für Gottes Gnade und Treue auch einen sichtbaren Ausdruck zu verleihen, hatte die Gemeinde den Beschluß gefaßt, in diesem Jubeljahr eine Glocke und Pfeifenorgel, die beide bisher der Gemeinde noch gemangelt hatten, anzuschaffen. Da die Einweihung der Orgel gelegentlich des Jubiläums stattfinden sollte, so mußte letzteres bis zur Fertigstellung der von einer Firma in New Ulm gelieferten Orgel verschoben werden. Daher das späte Datum der Jubelfeier. Die erste Jubelpredigt wurde von dem Ehrw. Distriktspräses, Pastor F. Pfotenhauer, Hamburg, Minnesota, die zweite von Pastor Chr. Boettcher gehalten. Die Orgelweihe hielt der Ortspastor, Pastor Müller. Die Glockenweihe hatte schon vor dem Jubiläum

stattgefunden. Die Glocke war von einer Firma in St. Louis bezogen worden und wog 1200 Pfund.

Am Ostermontag 1902 beschloß die Gemeinde den Bau einer Lehrerwohnung auf dem von Peter Schlemmer der Gemeinde geschenkten Grundstück von 10 Acker, auf welchem in 1899 bereits das Schulgebäude errichtet worden war. Der Bau wurde im Laufe des Sommers ausgeführt, sodaß Lehrer Wiersig mit Begin des neuen Schuljahrs darin wohnen konnte. Nach 5-jähriger Tätigkeit an der Gemeindeschule legte Lehrer Wiersig im Frühjahr 1904 sein Amt nieder und erhielt von der Gemeinde eine friedliche Entlassung. Die zum Zweck der Berufung eines neuen Lehrers stattgefundene Gemeindeversammlung hatte das Resultat, daß Lehrer H. C. Fiene, damals bei Pequot, Minnesota wohnhaft, gewählt und berufen wurde. Lehrer Fiene nahm den Beruf an und wurde Anfangs September 1904 in sein Amt eingeführt.

Seit Mai 1905 predigte Pastor Müller auch in dem Städchen Cottonwood. Seit Ostern wurde daselbst jedes dritte Mal auch in englischer Sprache gepredigt. Nach der Amtsniederlegung Pastor Müllers fuhr Pastor Laux fort in der Bedienung dieser Filiale bis zum Jahre 1913, in welchem Jahr Pastor Mommsen von Belview die Arbeit an derselben Gemeinde übernahm.

Von Anfangs Juni–21. August 1903 war der Pastor der Gemeinde abwesend, um sich von einer ernstlichen Erkrankung des Nervensystems zu erholen. Pastor Müller benutzte diesen Urlaub zu einer Reise ins alte Vaterland, spez. Würtemberg, und kehrte einigermaßen erholt zurück. Im Spätherbst 1908 zeigten sich indessen dieselben Symptome wie vor 5½ Jahren und nötigten ihn zu einer zeitweiligen Ausspannung. Er brachte drei Wochen in einem Sanatorium in Anoka, Minnesota, zu. Die gehoffte gute Wirkung war jedoch nur vorübergehend und nach der anstrengenden Winterarbeit erkannte der Pastor, daß bei seinem nunmehrigen Zustand ein ersprießliches Amtieren fürderhin unmöglich sei. So legte er nach etwas über16-jähriger Wirksamkeit sein Amt am 16. Mai nieder. Die Gemeinde nahm die Resignation ihres Pastors einstimmig an. Am 2. Sonntag nach Trinitatis hielt er sodann seine Abschiedspredigt.

Im Sommer desselben Jahres, 1909, wurde Pastor Ph. Laux von Martinsville, New York berufen und am 13. Sonntage nach Trinitatis von Pastor J. J. Oetjen eingeführt. Im Sommer des Jahres 1913 legte derselbe sein Amt nieder.

Herr Lehrer H. C. Fiene, legte sein Amt nieder krankheitshalber im Sommer des Jahres 1911 und wurde an seiner Stelle Lehrer C. F. Isberner berufen und eingeführt. Letzterer folgte einem Berufe nach Fairfield, Minnesota, im Frühling 1919. An dessen Stelle wurde Lehrer F. W. Ehlen von Lester Prairie berufen und am 8. Sonntage nach Trinitatis 1919 eingeführt.

Nach der Amtsniederlegung Pastor Laux wurde Pastor J. Brauer, bislang in Town Hart bei Rushford, Winona County, Minnesota, berufen und am 19. Sonntage nach Trinitatis 1913 durch Pastor August Hertwig eingeführt.

Am 28. Juni 1925 feierte die Gemeinde das 50-jährige Bestehen derselben. Dieser Feier wurde von einer großen Anzahl Glaubensgenossen nicht nur aus den benachbarten Gemeinden sondern auch von weither beigewohnt, einer Schar von über 2000 Menschen. Am Vormittage predigte Präses H. Meyer von Lakefield in deutscher Sprache, am Nachmittage Pastor H. Faedtke

in englischer Sprache und Pastor K. Reuter in deutscher Sprache und der Ortspastor verlas die Geschichte der Gemeinde. Zu dieser Feier hatte die Gemeinde die Kirche mit neuen Schindeln versehen zum Kostenpreis von $350 und innen neudekorieren lassen zum Preise von $800. Gleichfalls hatten die Frauen der Gemeinde einen neuen Teppich für die Altarnische gestiftet für $140 und neue Altar- und Kanzelbekleidung für $80. Auch hat die Gemeinde 40 Stühle angeschaft.

Im Herbst 1926 folgte Lehrer F. W. Ehlen einem Beruf nach Gibbon, Minnesota und wurde an seiner Stelle Lehrer J. Raedeke aus Waterville, Minnesota berufen und am 20. Sonntage nach Trinitatis eingeführt.

Schon in der Osterversammlung 1929 legte Pastor Brauer seine Resignation der Gemeinde vor. Die Gemeinde nahm dieselbe jedoch nicht an. In der Oktoberversammlung bat Pastor Brauer die Gemeinde wiederum, ihm eine friedliche Entlassung zu geben, da er im 73sten Lebensjahre stehe und die Arbeit in englischer Sprache für die Gemeinde nötig sei. Die Gemeinde gewährte die Bitte. Doch ersuchte sie den Pastor noch solange zu bleiben bis ein anderer Pastor sein Amt an der Gemeinde antrete.

Nach zweimaliger vergeblicher Berufung folgte Kandidat W. Poehler aus Courtland, Minnesota dem Rufe der Gemeinde und wurde am Neujahrstage 1930 von dem bisherigen Pastor inmitten der Gemeinde ordiniert und eingeführt. Pastor Brauer trat nun in den Ruhestand.

Im Sommer 1931 legte Lehrer Raedeke sein Amt nieder und Lehramtskandidat E. E. Pagels wurde berufen. Er nahm den Beruf an und wurde am 2. August 1931 eingeführt. Seit 1930 sind die Klassen in der Schule in zwei Zimmern geteilt. Als Hilfslehrer haben gedient während der letzten Jahre Student Edgar Eifert. 1932-33. Kandidat Arnold Kretzschmar, 1933-34 und Student Harold Bode, 1934-34. Auch hielt der Lehrer für zwei Jahre in der Kirche Sommerschule während der Ferien.

Folgende Änderungen und Verbesserungen sind von der Gemeinde während der letzten Jahre vorgenommen worden. In 1928 legte die Gemeinde ein neues Heizungssystem in der Kirche ein, welches, einschließlich des elektrischen Kraftapparats, einen Aufwand von $1300 erforderte. Zur selben Zeit sorgten die jungen Leute der Gemeinde für die elektrische Beleuchtung der Kirche. In 1930 wurde vom Frauenverein auch das Pfarrhaus für elektrische Beleuchtung eingerichtet. Seit 1930 werden die Gottesdienste abwechselnd deutsch und englisch gehalten. Während des Sommers 1930 wurde die Kirche angestrichen für $210. In 1931 pflanzte die Gemeinde 85 neue Bäume auf dem Missionsfestplatz bei der Kirche weil die alten Bäume abgestorben waren. In 1932 führte die Gemeinde das Kuvertsystem ein für die Einsammlung der nötigen Gelder für häusliche und auswärtige Zwecke.

Während ihres 60-jährigen Bestehens hat diese Gemeinde sieben Männer für das Predigtamt geliefert, Peter Schlemmer, Jr., Joseph Klausler, George Scheitel, George Propp, Reuben Ehlen, Harold Bode und Orville Markgraf—und zwei Personen, für das Lehramt, George Warnke und Fräulein Clara Timm.

Der Gott aller Gnade und Barmherzigkeit, der diese Gemeinde so reichlich gesegnet hat, schütze, regiere und bewahre sie mit allen ihren Gliedern bis sie dermaleinst eingehe mit allen Auserwählten in die ewige Jubelfeier der siegende Kirche Christi im Himmel. Bis dann, "seid fest, unbeweglich und nehmet immer zu in dem Werk des Herrn, sintemal ihr wisset, daß eure Arbeit nicht vergeblich ist in dem Herrn." 1 Kor.15,58.

LIST OF VOTING MEMBERS IN 1935

Anklam, John
Bahn, Alvin
Bahn, David
Bahn, Herman
Bahn, Harold
Bahn, Louis
Behm, August
Behm, Ewald
Behm, Carl Jr.
Behm, Carl Sr.
Behm, Oscar
Behrman, Martin
Bode, Alfred
Bode, August
Bode, Edgar
Bode, Wm. C.
Brauer, Wm.
Bruss, Albert
Bruss, Ernest
Bruss, Erwin
Bruss, Gerold
Bruss, Henry
Bruss, Herman
Bruss, Walter
Chapman, Clarence
Fiene, Hugo
Frank, Albert
Frank, Herman
Frank, J. R.
Geistfeld, Henry
Geistfeld, Walter
Gigstad, Alfred
Gniffke, Fred
Gniffke, Wm.
Goltz, Edward
Hulke, Albert
Klein, George
Lafrentz, George
Lafrentz, Joe
Markgraf, Henry
Markgraf, Marvin
Meyer, Ernest
Mielke, Herman
Milbradt, Henry
Mohwinkel, August
Mohwinkel, Elmer
Mohwinkel, Wilbert
Munsch, Nick
Munsch, Victor
Munsch, Walter
Naab, Frank
Naab, Walter
Pagel, Albert
Pagels, Ernst
Patrikus, Carl
Poehler, W. A.
Prechel, Eddie
Prechel, Ernest
Preuss, Carl
Preuss, Herman
Preuss, Otto
Propp, Gerold
Propp, Wm.
Rebers, Georg
Rebers, Louis F.
Renneke, Clarence
Renneke, Ezra
Rigge, Adolph
Rigge, Ernest
Rigge, Reuben
Scheer, Ferdinand
Schlemmer, Albert
Schlemmer, Henry
Schmidt, Philip
Schnackenberg, George
Schwartz, Henry
Stroschein, Awaldt
Stroschein, John
Stroschein, Walter
Schulz, Leopold
Timm, Arthur
Timm, Erwin
Timm, George
Timm, Harry
Timm, Max A.
Timm, Max, Sr.
Timm, W. A.
Timm, Walter
Timm, Wm. Sr.
Timm, W. J.
Voigt, Arnold
Voigt, Louis
Volkmann, George
Volkmann, Wilbert
Weiss, Adolph
Wenholz, Walter
Wigand, Arthur
Wigand, Edwin
Wigand, Harry
Wigand, Herbert
Wilkening, Wm.
Zorn, Walter